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Title : Need to set up a Passport Office in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): Passport offices in Chennai and Tiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu are not able to meet the increasing need for their services as applications for new passport, renewals and attendant requisites like ECNR endorsements, change of address etc. As a result the issuance is delayed beyond measure. This gives rise to the operation of touts who thrive on the anxiety of passport applicants caused due to inordinate delays. Hence, Passport Cell have opened in District Collector's Offices. But still there is no let up in mounting needs and resultant problems.

Madurai City is in the middle of Tamil Nadu and is the gateway to southern districts of Tamil Nadu. It is an emerging city with rapid development due to fast paced industrialisation and growing computer software and IT ventures. In the last two years number of train and flight services to this pilgrimage-cum-tourist-cum-commercial centre has increased manifold. Madurai Airport is sought to be upgraded as International Airport with increasing number of skilled dand unskilled labour going in thousands to Malaysia, Singapore and Middle East countries. Hence, I urge upon the External Affairs Ministry to open another Passport Office in Tamil Nadu to be set up in Madurai city. A full-fledged Passport Office may kindly be set up in Madurai which will greatly benefit the public from the far flung southern districts of Tamil Nadu.